

Remarks:

This amendment is submitted in an earnest effort to advance this case to issue without delay.

The specification has been amended to eliminate some minor obvious errors. Similarly the drawing has been cleaned up and provided with some reference numerals and letters now also in the Specification. No new matter whatsoever has been added.

Translated claim 1 has been canceled and replaced with a new independent claim 16 that, as best shown in FIGS. 4 and 5, details a fitting comprising:

a pipe end 4 centered on an axis A and formed with a radial outward enlargement 8 having an axially inwardly directed face 21 lying in a plane perpendicular to the axis A (see FIGS. 1-5);  
an annular reinforcement 6 fitted in the enlargement 8, braced radially outwardly thereagainst and having an axially outwardly directed front end face 18 lying in a plane perpendicular to the axis A and axially outward of the inwardly directed enlargement face 21;

a nut 3 bearing axially outwardly (See FIGS. 4 and 5) on the axially inwardly directed enlargement face 21; and  
a connector 15 engaged by the nut 3 and pressed thereby axially inward against the axially outwardly directed reinforcement face 18.

With this structure the flange 8 is reinforced inwardly by the reinforcement 6 and compressed axially between this reinforcement 6 and the nut 4. The faces 18 and 21 that bear axially outward and axially inward on the parts 15 and 3 are perpendicular to the axis A so that pressing axially oppositely against them does not exert a radial inward vector of force on the pipe end 4 to radially deform it.

In US 5,893,591 of Ebel, which is the admitted prior art, the nut 7 bears axially outward on an angled face 15 of the pipe end so that it will exert a considerable radially inwardly directed vector of force against this part, tending to inwardly compress and deform it. This is a significantly different structure and clearly does not anticipate claim 16 under §102 of §103.

Thus all the claims in the case are allowable. Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If only minor problems that could be corrected by means of a telephone conference stand in the way of allowance of this case, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned to make the necessary corrections.

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13 November 2008  
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